

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC WORKSHOP
FRESNO, CA
MARCH 14, 2007

PROGRAM GUIDELINES
QUESTIONS

1. When are these drafts going to be final and when will the program be implemented?

PROGRAM GUIDELINES
COMMENTS

1. SNC has been very thorough, we anticipate good things.
2. SNC may want to talk to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to see how they operate. They have a lot of money and have been doing it a long time, so they could give SNC a lot of good tips.

GRANT GUIDELINES
QUESTIONS

1. Will there be grant money for spring development for wildlife? What about brush manipulation for the benefit of wildlife? There is an 8,400-acre project proposed right now.
2. Who do you anticipate eligible recipients for grants to be?
3. **At Proposition 84 meetings we keep hearing the phrase "ready to go" regarding projects. Do projects regarding planning count as projects "ready to go"? Do these planning projects fall under Prop. 84? For example, Shaver Lake has a sub-county foothills plan that hasn't been revised in 14 years. Can SNC help?**
4. What is your guess on the number of grant applications you will receive? And how many people will be reviewing these applications?
5. The list of Board members on the back of SNC's brochure, are they the deciders?
6. Will staff who evaluate applications be appropriately licensed/certified? For example: Forestry, geologists, hydrologists, etc.
7. In regard to question about licensed evaluators: Being a State agency you would work with other State agencies to tap complementary skills?

GRANT GUIDELINES
COMMENTS

1. When you announce grant availability, provide adequate time to submit, it can be difficult for public agencies' schedules.
2. The evaluation system you are talking about is similar to the WCB, it works really well.

3. **Regarding stakeholders and community support: Other entities seem to require more, these requirements seem a little “loosey-goosey”. Don’t think South Sierra entities are very skilled or thorough at consulting with stakeholders. Documents may need more structure in this area.**
4. The California Water Institute at CSU, Fresno is working on a fractured rock hydrology storage study. This study has never been done before and needs funding. There is a benefit for East Fresno County, but it would also provide hard data for decisions regarding holding capacity and planning. Would SNC be interested in this project?

OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. **On SNC’s brochure: Recreational Tourism? What does that include? The brochure doesn’t indicate hunting and fishing, that needs to be in there.**
2. Comment to other meeting attendants: The decision about SNC’s \$17 million budget is being made right now. It will be helpful for interested organizations to show support by contacting legislators to lobby for SNC’s funding.
3. What is the status of the license plate fund program? Does the old sign-up information still stand?
4. Comment by United States Forest Service (USFS): The public often thinks that Federal/State agencies have enough money already. Knowing how the public may see funding for the Federal government, the Forest Service will assemble partnerships before applying for grants to show leveraging.
5. Comment by USFS: USFS wants to try to get a coordinating body, perhaps SNC, to look at biomass utilization up and down the Sierras, but there are air quality issues, and there is only one working sawmill left in the South Sierra (Terra Bella Sawmill). USFS wants to partner up and use their facility.
6. If we had a project but didn’t have partners yet, would it be possible to use SNC’s web site or some other method to locate partners by making a project known? SNC should get the list of the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Resource Advisory Council’s (RAC) Sierra Rural Schools applicants to check for partners/projects.
7. One concern is that SNC not only be utilized as a grant source, that people use SNC for all of its purposes/resources.
8. SNC is already fostering a lot of collaboration, this will help generate funds. It is already starting to happen, getting groups to talk who had never talked, especially those who are geographically separated.
9. Comment to attendants: What SNC is saying is that it is important for all organizations to submit projects and ideas to help get more resources. SNC can also pass this information on to legislators to show your needs in the Sierra Nevada.
10. Who is the county supervisor representing our area?

SUBREGIONAL ISSUES RAISED

1. Air quality
2. Water quantity
3. Working landscapes
4. Tourism/recreation
5. Wildlife habitat
6. Planning studies
7. Biomass utilization